

Appln No. 09/747,677

Amdt date November 3, 2004

Reply to Office action of August 3, 2004

**REMARKS/ARGUMENTS**

Claims 52-89 will be pending in this application upon entry of the above amendments. Claims 52, 54-55, 57-58, 60-62, 64, 66, 67, 70, 72-74, 76-77, 80-83 and 87 have been amended. This Amendment is being filed with a Request for Continued Examination. Accordingly, reexamination, reconsideration, and an early indication of allowance of claims 52-89 are respectfully requested.

In the Final Office action, the Examiner indicated that the "Replacement Sheet" and "Annotated Sheet Showing Changes" for amended FIG. 2D were missing. Accordingly, Applicant hereby resubmits the replacement and annotated sheets for FIG. 2D.

The Examiner also rejected claims 52-75 under 35 U.S.C.103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,615,408 to Kaiser et al. in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,861,881 to Freeman et al. Claims 76-89 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kaiser in view of Freeman, and further in view of Howe et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,818,438), Kitsukawa et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,282,713), and/or Settle et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,233,253). Applicant respectfully traverses these rejections.

Claims 52, 55, 58, 61, 64, 67, 70, and 73 have been amended to recite "a single mask including data for a plurality of mask overlays corresponding to a plurality of regions in one of said plurality of video frames." (Emphasis added). Claim 76 has been similarly amended to recite "a single mask including data

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for a plurality of image overlays corresponding to a plurality of objects in one of said plurality of video frames." None of the cited references teach or suggest these limitations. Accordingly, independent claims 52, 55, 58, 61, 64, 67, 70, 73, and 76 are now in condition for allowance.

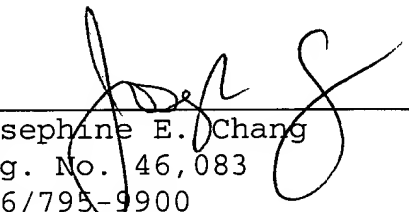
Claims 53-54, 56-57, 59-60, 62-63, 65-66, 68-69, 71-72, 74-75, and 77-89 are also in condition for allowance because they depend on an allowable base claim, and for the additional limitations that they contain.

In view of the above amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully requests an early indication of allowance of claims 52-89.

Respectfully submitted,

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